of thought to draw back the curtain of the future and to foretell the careers of his class-mates. Years later the class holds a reunion and the prophecy is brought forth out of its dust for hilarious rereading. The brilliant boy graduate to become president is behind prison bars; the stylish girl graduate to be the wife of a Wall Street magnate is a farmer's widow, and the poor dumb-bell consigned to a village merchant's life is the most famous Congressman, It is dangerous, extremely dangerous, to essay the role of a Joshua. Your predictions are likely to come home to plague you with their ridiculousness.

Now I am not a prophet or the son of a prophet. I am just an ordinary mortal with, I hope, the usual amount of brain matter, but in addition possessed of more than ordinary experience in Philippine and Far Eastern affairs. I would draw from that experience to make certain deductions of possible future happenings of the Philippine Republic.

If all goes well, on the fourth of July following the expiration of a ten-year period counted from the inauguration of the Philippine Commonwealth, the United States will withdraw American sovereignty from the Philippines and the independence of the Philippines will be proclaimed and recognized. In other words, on July 4, 1946, the citizens of the Philippine Republic will join with the citizens of the American Republic in celebrating their Independence Day. How will the Filipinos and their Republic fare when independence comes? Can the Filipinos maintain independence?

These are fair questions.

M. Mallat in his *Geographical History of the Philippines* of 1846 sanguinely anticipated that in process of time the Philippines would become the dominant political power of the Eastern world, subjecting to its paramount influence the Netherlands Archipelago, the Pacific, Australia, and even China and Japan. Nearly a century later there exist a few optimists who similarly presume to believe that the Philip-